Vol. 69, pp. 187-188 December 31, 1956

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE STATUS OF MORMOPTERUS PERUANUS J. A. ALLEN

By Luis de la Torre
Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana

In 1900, J. A. Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. **13**: 226) reported on a small collection of mammals from the Inca Mines on the Inambari River of southeastern Peru. Two bats in this collection were listed as *Nyctinomus* sp. with a statement that they represented "a species nearly related to *N. brasiliensis* [*Tadarida brasiliensis*] I. Geoffroy." Fourteen years later these specimens became the basis for the name *Mormopterus peruanus* J. A. Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. **33**: 387. 1914).

In examining the type (No. 16075) and the paratype (No. 16074) in the American Museum of Natural History I discovered that they were indistinguishable from specimens of *Tadarida brasiliensis*, with which they agreed in dental formula, $\frac{1\text{-}1\text{-}2\text{-}3}{3\text{-}1\text{-}2\text{-}3}$, shape and size of skull, size of wing, and in coloration. Measurements of the type and paratype of *Mormopterus peruanus*, and of a series of six *Tadarida brasiliensis* from Peru are given in Table 1.

It should not be inferred, however, on the basis of this finding, that *Mormopterus* and *Tadarida* are so closely related that the generic separation of their respective species is an artificial one. The specimens upon which Allen based his *M. peruanus* are clearly *Tadarida*, and why he believed they were of the genus *Mormopterus* I do not know. I have examined the neotropical species *minutus* Miller and *kalinowskii* Thomas which are currently considered of the genus *Mormopterus* and these possess peculiarities in dentition, shape of skull, and structure of the ear which are not shared by neotropical species of *Tadarida*.

At the same time, I do not mean to imply that these peculiarities clearly prove the validity of *Mormopterus*. An evaluation of these differences is not possible unless all the molossid species can be studied in detail and their variation noted. Such an appraisal has not been within the scope of this paper.

I wish to express my appreciation to Harold E. Anthony and Richard G. Van Gelder for their kind hospitality and help during my recent visits to the American Museum of Natural History.

TABLE 1. Measurements (in millimeters) of type (AMNH 16075) and paratype (AMNH 16074) of *Mormopterus peruanus*, and of six specimens (United States National Museum) of *Tadarida brasiliensis* from Peru. The mean is followed by the extremes in parenthesis.

	M. peruanus		*T. brasiliensis*
	Type	Paratype	6 specimens
Forearm	43.0		43.3 (42.0-44.3)
Metacarpal III	44.5	43.0	43.5 (41.5-44.9)
Metacarpal IV	42.6	41.9	41.9 (39.6-43.3)
Metacarpal V	25.3	26.4	25.7 (24.3-26.6)
Greatest length of skull	17.1	17.6	17.4 (16.8-18.2)
Condyloincisive length	16.1	16.5	16.1 (15.7-16.3)
Zygomatic breadth	9.8	10.2	9.8 (9.6-10.1)
Maximum length of palate	5.8	5.8	5.8 (5.5- 6.0)
Interorbital constriction	4.9	4.9	4.8 (4.6- 5.0)
Postorbital constriction	3.8	3.9	4.0 (3.6- 4.0)
Maxillary tooth row	6.3	6.4	6.4 (6.2- 6.5)
Maximum breadth across molars	7.2	7.3	7.1 (6.9- 7.2)
Maximum length of mandible	11.7	12.1	11.7 (11.2-12.1)
Mandibular tooth row	7.0	7.0	7.0 (6.8- 7.2)